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To His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, in Council assembled :

The Petition of HARRIET FRASER, of St. Andrews, in the County of Stormont, Spinster,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

That Your Petitioner is the only surviving daughter of the late Simon Fraser who died at St. Andrews in the year 1862.

That in the year 1792 the late Simon Fraser entered the service of The North-West Fur Trading Company and was soon after sent to Lake Athabasca. He remained in that vicinity for some years. In the year 1802 he became a partner in the Company.

In 1805 Mr. Fraser took part in the Conference of the leading members of the Company who met at Fort William to consider the project of extending their operations beyond the Rocky Mountains and of occupying the country Westward to the ocean in advance of the American Traders who had then penetrated as far North as the Columbia River and were eagerly pushing their way further up the coast.

The members of the Company having decided to extend their out-posts across the Rocky Mountains and to establish trading connections with the tribes of Indians west of the Mountain Ranges, his partners deputed your Petitioner's father to undertake the task of exploring that region, of establishing trading-posts in that then unknown Territory and of occupying the country as British Traders.

Mr. Fraser's diary shows that he left Fort William on his long and perilous adventure in August 1805, passing through the Lake of the Woods, Lake Winnipeg up the Saskatchewan past Cumberland House then up English River as far as Isle la Croix. Up Buffalo Lake then over Portage La Cache into the Athabasca River and Lake to Fort Athabasca up the Peace River to the foot of the Mountains to a place which he named the Rocky Mountain Portage, where he left two clerks Mr. James McDougall and Mr. Archibald McGillivray, and twelve men in charge. He then continued his route with six men to Lake McLeod, so named by him, where he left three of his men to form acquaintance with the Indians.

In the year 1806 having returned to the Portage for additional men, Mr. Fraser penetrated westward to the Fraser River, which receives its name from him, as its discoverer. He explored the Stewart River calling it after John Stewart, a clerk who was with him, and at the distance of 120 miles from its mouth he established a trading post, leaving Stewart and two men in charge, calling the place "New Caledonia." Continuing his exploration westward he established another Post at Fraser's Lake. The despatches he sent to Fort Athabasca gave increased interest to his undertaking and he was pressed to push on to the ocean and trace out the Fraser River which at first he supposed was a branch of the Columbia. In the Fall of 1807 two canoes with goods, in charge of Messrs Quesnel and Ferres, were sent to his assistance. (The former was afterwards Member for Montreal.) They brought letters urging Mr. Fraser to continue his explorations and to occupy the country in advance of the Americans, as Lewis and Clark had in the previous year gone down the Columbia River, and were extending the authority of the Republic through that region. And John Jacob Astor was also enlarging his operations northward.

In the Summer of 1807 Mr. Fraser built another trading house on the Fraser River in about Latitude 54. In May 1808 he started from Stewart Lake with four canoes and sixteen men

traversing the Fraser River to the ocean. The Indians of the Interior had never before seen the "Pale faces," and it required great prudence and skill to avoid a conflict and eventually to win their friendship.

The North-West Fur Company having thus added what is now British Columbia to their sovereignty it remained under their control till the fusion of that Company with the Hudson Bay Company in 1821, and thirty-seven years after it became a Crown Colony.

After the retirement of your Petitioner's father from the Company he was offered the honor of Knighthood in recognition of his services. His circumstances did not, however, warrant the acceptance of a title, and he died extremely poor leaving his family unprovided for. Your Petitioner and two brothers are now the sole survivors.

Remembering the advantages gained by the neighboring Republic in all our diplomatic controversies, touching the boundary line between the two countries from the State of Maine line in the East to the San Juan boundary in the west, can it be claimed that had British Traders not occupied the country West of the Rocky Mountains in advance of the Americans, we should to-day have the Pacific Ocean for our Western boundary, and should possess within our Confederation the fine Province of British Columbia? Canada has never been ungrateful to those sons who have secured advantages for their country, and your Petitioner therefore hopes that some recognition of her father's services may even now be shown by making provision for the support of his only surviving daughter.

And your Petitioner will as in duty bound ever pray.

HARRIET FRASER.

OTTAWA, June 1887.

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